



HAY URBAN DISTRICT

REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year 1952



Officials.

Medical Officer of Health.....T.C.R.George, M.R.C.S.,
L.R.C.P.,
D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector.....G.G.Evans, M.R.San.I.,
M.S.I.A.



Report of the Medical Officer of Health

1952

Mr.Chairman,Lady and Gentlemen,
I beg to submit my annual report on the sanitary conditions and the state of the public health in the Hay Urban District for the year 1952.
In the preparation of this report I have endeavoured to deal briefly with all matters within my responsibility regarding public health and preventive medicine and I have included all the subjects specifically requested by the Welsh Board of Health in Circular 2/53 (Wales).

SECTION 1 GENERAL AND VITAL STATISTICS.

Statistical Summary for the year 1952.

Area				370 acres.
Population(Census 1951).....				1452.
Population(Estimated at Midsummer 1952).....				1439.
Number of inhabited houses.....				489.
<u>Live Births.</u>	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Rate per 1000 pop.</u>
Legitimate	8	9	17	
Illegitimate	0	0	0	
	8	9	17	11.8
<u>Still Births.....</u>	0.			
<u>Deaths from all causes.....</u>	11	10	21	14.6.
<u>Maternal Deaths.....</u>	Nil.			
<u>Deaths under 1 year.....</u>	1.			Rate per 1000 live births....58.8.
<u>Deaths from special causes.</u>				
Infectious disease.....				Nil.
Tuberculosis of respiratory system.....				Nil.
Other tuberculous disease.....				Nil.
Cancer.....				One.

Area.
The district of Hay is a small urban area of 370 acres forming part of the County of Breconshire.It is situated in the northern part of the County and adjoins the Counties of Radnorshire and Herefordshire.
The surrounding district is agricultural in nature and farming is the predominant occupation of the surrounding residents.

<u>Population.</u>	Census 1931.....	1509.								
	Census 1951.....	1452.								
1942.	1943.	1944.	1945.	1946.	1947.	1948.	1949.	1950.	1951.	1952.
1409.	1450.	1420.	1344.	1345.	1361.	1398.	1407.	1455.	1433.	1439.

The above figures are the Registrar General's estimated figures for the various years.
The number of inhabited houses in the district is 489 giving an average number of 3.0 persons per house.

Hay Urban District

<u>BIRTHS.</u>	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Rate.</u>
1938.....			26.....	19.0.
1939.....			15.....	11.2.
1940.....	19.....	20.....	39.....	28.0.
1941.....	12.....	12.....	24.....	15.3.
1942.....	19.....	9.....	28.....	19.3.
1943.....	7.....	17.....	24.....	16.5.
1944.....	16.....	13.....	29.....	20.4.
1945.....	16.....	8.....	24.....	17.8.
1946.....	10.....	14.....	24.....	17.7.
1947.....	14.....	17.....	31.....	22.7.
1948.....	6.....	10.....	16.....	11.4.
1949.....	15.....	7.....	22.....	15.6.
1950.....	9.....	10.....	19.....	13.0.
1951.....	14.....	13.....	27.....	18.8.
1952.....	8.....	9.....	17.....	11.8.
England and Wales, 1952.....				15.3.

The birthrate for the year under review was lower than the average for the whole of England and Wales, and was also lower than the death rate.

DEATHS. After taking into account the outwardly and inwardly transferable deaths the net number of deaths registered amongst residents in the district is shown in the following table;

	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Rate.</u>
1938.....			25.....	18.3.
1939.....			23.....	17.3.
1940.....	15.....	16.....	31.....	22.0.
1941.....	11.....	13.....	24.....	15.4.
1942.....	8.....	16.....	24.....	16.1.
1943.....	14.....	12.....	26.....	17.8.
1944.....	13.....	11.....	24.....	16.8.
1945.....	21.....	10.....	31.....	23.0.
1946.....	12.....	8.....	20.....	14.7.
1947.....	10.....	12.....	22.....	16.0.
1948.....	11.....	12.....	23.....	16.4.
1949.....	13.....	15.....	28.....	19.9.
1950.....	8.....	16.....	24.....	16.5.
1951.....	9.....	15.....	24.....	16.7.
1952.....	11.....	10.....	21.....	14.6.
England and Wales, 1952.....				11.3.

It will be observed that the deathrate for 1952, was higher than the average for the whole of England and Wales, and was also higher than the birth rate for the district.

<u>STILL BIRTHS.</u>	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Rate.</u>
1938.....			1.....	0.7.
1939.....			1.....	0.7.
1940.....	0.....	0.....	0.....	0.
1941.....	1.....	0.....	1.....	0.6.
1942.....	0.....	0.....	0.....	0.
1943.....	0.....	0.....	0.....	0.
1944.....	1.....	0.....	1.....	0.7.
1945.....	0.....	0.....	0.....	0.
1946.....	0.....	0.....	0.....	0.
1947.....	0.....	0.....	0.....	0.
1948.....	0.....	0.....	0.....	0.
1949.....	0.....	2.....	2.....	1.4.
1950.....	2.....	0.....	2.....	1.3.
1951.....	0.....	0.....	0.....	0.
1952.....	0.....	0.....	0.....	0.
England and Wales, 1952.....				0.35.

The still birthrate was lower than that of the average of the whole of England and Wales.

Infantile Mortality. This is the number of deaths occurring in children of under one year of age.

The rate is calculated per 1000 live births.

	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Rate.</u>
1938.....			2.....	76.8.
1939.....			1.....	66.6.
1940.....	2.....	2.....	4.....	102.0.
1941.....	0.....	0.....	0.....	0.
1942.....	1.....	0.....	1.....	36.0.
1943.....	0.....	1.....	1.....	41.0.
1944.....	0.....	0.....	0.....	0.
1945.....	1.....	0.....	1.....	41.0.
1946.....	1.....	0.....	1.....	41.0.
1947.....	0.....	0.....	0.....	0.
1948.....	0.....	0.....	0.....	0.
1949.....	1.....	1.....	2.....	90.0.
1950.....	0.....	0.....	0.....	0.
1951.....	1.....	0.....	1.....	37.0.
1952.....	1.....	0.....	1.....	58.8.
England and Wales, 1952.....				27.6.

Analysis of Causes of Deaths. Males.....11. Females.....10.

<u>Cause.</u>	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>
Malignant neoplasm, uterus.....	0.....	1.
Vascular lesions, nervous system.....	1.....	0.
Hypertension with heart disease.....	1.....	0.
Other heart disease.....	4.....	6.
Other circulatory disease.....	1.....	0.
Pneumonia.....	1.....	0.
Bronchitis.....	0.....	1.
Hyperplasia, prostate.....	1.....	0.
Other defined causes.....	1.....	2.
Suicide.....	1.....	0.

The deaths are classified under the headings given in the new Abridged List of Causes of deaths.

Illegitimacy. The number of illegitimate births registered as belonging to residents of the district in 1952 was Nil.

Maternal Mortality. There were no deaths during the year which could be attributed to children.

SECTION 2. GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES.

Public Health Officers. The same arrangements existed during the year as in the previous year. Mr. G. Evans acted as your Sanitary Inspector, and was employed in a similar capacity by the Rural District of Hay and Painscastle.

Laboratory Facilities. During the year laboratory facilities were available at Hereford, Cardiff, Newport, Carmarthen, Swansea, Aberystwyth and Brecon. All water samples were sent to the Public Health Laboratory at Hereford whilst any investigation required in the control of infectious disease could be performed at the Public Health Laboratory at Cardiff and at Hereford. All the milk testing was done by the Public Health Laboratory at Hereford.

Ambulance Facilities. As a result of the National Health Service Act, 1946, the County Council were responsible for the provision of an ambulance service and made use of the existing St. John's ambulance for general use while ambulances from Merthyr Isolation Hospital conveyed patients suffering from infectious disease to hospital.

Home Nursing. Under the new Health Act, the County Council were responsible for the provision of home nursing facilities. The nurses previously partly employed by various district nursing associations were whole time employees of the County Council.

Treatment Centres and Clinics. Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics, administered by the County Council are held regularly at Wesley Hall, Oxford Road. Ante-natal clinics and facilities for the treatment of minor ailments, immunisation, dental, orthopaedic and eye defects are also available. These are also administered by the County Council.

Hospitals. The hospital needs of the residents of the district, for all diseases apart from infectious disease, are provided by Hereford Hospital and Brecon War Memorial Hospital. Merthyr Isolation Hospital and Hereford Isolation Hospital received cases of infectious disease.

For the treatment of cases of smallpox arrangements have been made by the Welsh Board of Health for beds to be available at the Penrhys Hospital, Rhondda.

Disinfection. In the main the methods used for any required disinfection have been fumigation and spraying.

SECTION 3. MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

These services are administered by the County Council and include clinics for maternity and child welfare, immunisation, dental, orthopaedic and visual defects, and expectant mothers. Provision is also made for the supply of free and cheap rate milk and medicinal foods. The supervision of midwives, childlife protection and the care of premature and illegitimate infants is also the responsibility of the County Council.

SECTION 4. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES.

Water Supplies. The water supplies to the district are taken from springs. During the year the water supply could not be regarded as adequate in quantity.

The supply was cut off from 10 p.m. to 7 a.m. daily from the 8 to the 25th July inclusive and from the 26th July to the 2nd August it was shut off completely except for 6 hours daily, on the 2nd August to the 30th August back to 10 p.m. to 7 a.m. This only applies to the Hay Common supply.

Serious consideration was given during the year to the redesign of Hay Common treatment works.

All the houses in the district have water laid on, all not necessarily inside the house.

Samples taken during the year.

Hay Common.....2 samples(raw water.) 2..unsatisfactory.

The filter bed was skimmed during the year.

Progress in the new Esgryn Brook and Llanybwehllan schemes appears very slow and the provision of an adequate and wholesome supply of water still therefore remains a pressing need in the district.

Number of visits of inspection by Sanitary Inspector.....26.

Drainage and Sewerage. The sewage in the district is not treated in any way but it is discharged direct into the river Wye. During the year the Surveyor was instructed to prepare a scheme for a sewage disposal works.

Number of visits made by the Sanitary Inspector, in connection with drainage work.....5.

Public Cleansing. There was no change in the methods adopted for the twice weekly collection and disposal of house refuse. This work is done by the Council employees under the supervision of your Sanitary Inspector. The refuse is then disposed of by tipping. The present tip is likely to be completely filled in about 4 years.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area. The sanitary inspection of the area was undertaken by the Sanitary Inspector. The following details give information relating to the work of the Sanitary Inspector during the year.

Nuisances.

Number of complaints received.....29.
 Number of complaints investigated.....29.
 Number of premises inspected.....31.
 Number of premises revisited.....13.
 Number of preliminary notices served.....0.
 Number of statutory notices served.....1.

Houses let in Lodgings. It is not considered that any of the houses in the district are of such a nature as to require control under byelaws made under Section 6 of the Housing Act, 1936.

Offensive Trades. There are no offensive trades in the district.

Common Lodging Houses. There are no common lodging houses in the district.

Licensed Premises.

Number of visits made by Sanitary Inspector.....44.

Shops.

Number of inspections made.....29.

Factories.

Number of factories on register.....16.
 Number of inspections made.....35.
 Number of defects found.....8.
 Number of defects remedied.....8.

Camping Sites. There is no licensed camping site in the district.

Eradication of Bed Bugs and Steps Taken to combat Infestation.

Any premises found as a result of inspection or complaint to be infested with bed bugs or other vermin is treated with D.D.T. preparations.

Number of premises inspected.....1.
 Number of premises treated for vermin during the year.....1.

Rodent Control. One full time rodent operative is engaged by the Council. This same operative is also engaged by the Hay Rural District Council. This operative worked under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspector.

Number of premises inspected during the year.....	284.
Number of premises found infested.....	40.
Number of premises treated by rodent operative.....	22.
Number of premises treated by occupier.....	18.
Number of dead rats recovered.....	50.
Estimated number of rats killed during the year.....	312.

The sewers and road gullies were treated in May and September.

Legal Proceedings. No legal proceedings were undertaken by the Council during the year.

Section 5. Housing.

There was no appreciable difference in the housing conditions in the district during the year. Owing to the complete cessations of building operations during the war years the housing situation was acute. The Council erected 14 houses during the year. These were also occupied. One house was built by private enterprise. There were no applications for Improvement Grants.

Houses erected since the war:- (a) by Council.....58.
(b) by Private Enterprise.....One.

Number of applications still on waiting list at end of year.....42.
6 of the applicants were living in rooms and 36 in houses.
Number of house to house inspections made.....71.

Section 6. Inspection and Supervision of Food.

Milk. On October 1st., 1949, the Milk and Dairies Act, 1944, came into operation. Under this Act the supervision of farm buildings connected with the production of milk became the responsibility of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

Local Authorities were left with the control and licensing of distributors.

Samples taken during the year.

Number of samples taken.....	16.
Number of samples satisfactory.....	13.
Number of samples unsatisfactory.....	3.

The result of these samples were sent to the Milk Sub-Committee of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries at Brecon.

Meat. There is no slaughterhouse in the district. All meat to the district is supplied from the Ministry of Food Slaughtering Point at Brecon.

No meat was condemned during the year.

Other Foods.

Number of tins condemned.....	353.
Number of pounds condemned.....	418.

Food Preparation Rooms. (including bakehouses).

Number of inspections made.....29.

Ice Cream Premises.

Number of inspections made.....26.
There were five retailers of ice cream during the year, one being a producer retailer. No samples of ice cream were taken during the year.

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Fish and Fried Fish Shops.

Number of inspections made.....23.
There were two fried fish premises in the district during the year.

Section 7. Prevalence and Control of Infectious Disease.

The following number of notifiable infectious diseases were reported to me during the year.

1 case Flexner Dysentery.

The district was therefore free of any epidemic of notifiable infectious disease.

Under the new Health Act, all fees paid by the Council for the notification of infectious disease are refunded by the County Council provided that copies of the notifications are received by that authority.

Vonereal Disease. The County Council has an agreement with the General and Eye Hospital, Swansea, for the treatment of these cases. The tracing of contacts and the following up of defaulters is the responsibility of the County Council.

Tuberculosis. The following details show the position as regards tuberculosis in recent years.

Number of cases on the register at commencement of year.....	13.
Number of fresh cases added during the year.....	0.
Number of cases removed due to death.....	0.
Number of cases removed as recovered.....	1.
Number of cases removed as left the district.....	1.
Number of cases left on register at end of year.....	11.

The number of notifications in recent years is shown below:

1942.	1943.	1944.	1945.	1946.	1947.	1948.	1949.	1950.	1951.	1952.
2.	3.	4.	4.	3.	0.	6.	0.	3.	6.	0.

Diphtheria Immunisation. As a result of the new Health Act, the County Council were responsible for the immunisation of children against diphtheria and details for the district will be found in the annual report of the County Medical Officer. Facilities for immunisation are now available at the ordinary Maternity and Child Welfare clinics and also at the schools during the school medical inspections.

It is pleasing to see that the incidence of diphtheria continues to fall: The object of the immunisation campaign, however, remains the same: to secure the immunisation of not less than 75% of babies before their first birthday. During the first half of 1952, however, it is disturbing to note that only 31% of the estimated number of children reaching the age of one year during this period received this protection. It must be remembered that diphtheria still kills and that elimination of the disease is conditional upon the maintenance of an adequate level of immunisation. If parents leave their children unprotected there may be a return of diphtheria outbreaks, and there have been several sharp reminders of this possibility during the year under review.

Yours faithfully,

T.C.R. George,

Medical Officer of Health.

